Neko no Machi no Ko

by Morie Satoshi

Chapter 4

The End
TheEndManga.wordpress.com

Always open to new freelancers
finishing off projects of their choosing!

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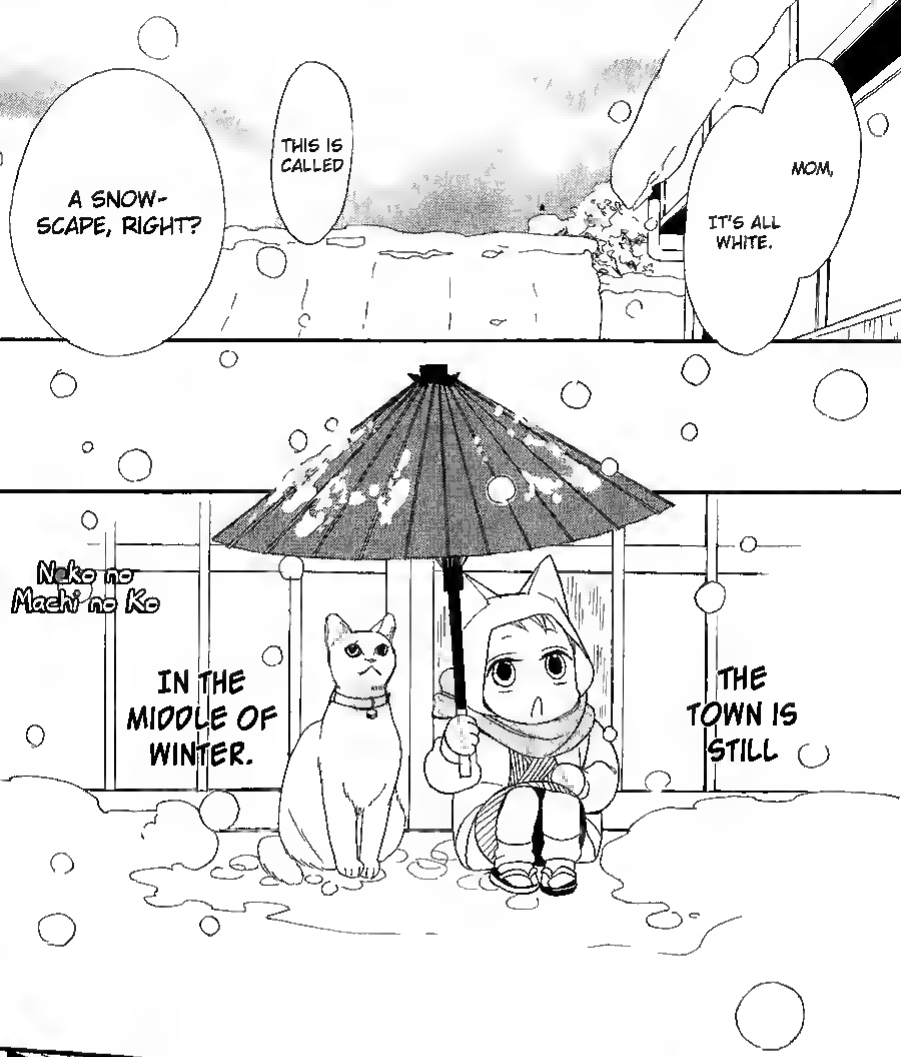

MOM, IT'S ALL WHITE.
THIS IS CALLED A SNOW-SCAPE, RIGHT?
Neko no Machi no Ko
IN THE MIDDLE OF WINTER.
THE TOWN IS STILL

SINCE OLDEN TIMES, THIS TEA HOUSE DISTRICT HAS REMAINED UNCHANGED.
IT'S ALMOST AS IF IT EXISTS IN ANOTHER DIMENSION, UNTOUCHED BY MODERN LIFE.
THAT'S WHAT PEOPLE WHO VISIT HERE SAY.

猫の街の子

Neko no Machi no Ko

Chapter 4 最終話

SHIRO-CHAN, GOOD MORNING!
MEOW!
Meow!
SHIRO!
WON'T YOU HAVE BREAKFAST AT MY HOUSE TODAY?
MEOW!
Shwoosh
WHOA! THAT WAS A CLOSE ONE.
THIS TOWN IS FILLED WITH STRAY CATS
WHO GET ALONG WELL WITH HUMANS.
Meow!
BECAUSE WINTER IS SO COLD,
WE'RE THANKFUL THAT HUMANS LEND US THEIR HOMES.

yuuka
Yuuka
Yuuka
GOOD MORNING, MOM.
Meow.
THIS IS MY FRIEND, NYAOSU.
SAY "NICE TO MEET YOU!" TO NYAOSU.
HE'S THE BEAUTIFUL WANDERING CAT. HE'S TABIKO'S KID.
Meow.
MY HUMAN MOM ISN'T HERE ANY-MORE,
SO THIS IS MY MOM NOW.
I'M GOING OUT TO PLAY!
MY MOM IS SO FLUFFY AND WHITE.
Meow.

猫の街の子

SHIRO-CHAN
ROLL ROLL
WHAT'RE YOU MAKING?
Meow
KANO-SAN!
MOM.
MOM AND I
WE'RE PERFECT TOGETHER.
GET ALONG VERY WELL.

YUUKA-SAN, GOOD MORNING.
IT'S ICHII FROM AWA-RAYA.
ICHII-SAN,
SHIRO WENT OUT TO PLAY.
THANKS FOR COMING IN THIS COLD.
NOT AT ALL.
YOUR SMILE WARMS THE DEPTHS OF MY HEART...
Grumble
You'll flirt with anybody, won't you?!
KANOKO-SAN..
IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR SHIRO-CHAN, HE'S PLAYING OVER THERE.

YOU'RE ALSO AS BEAUTIFUL AS ALWAYS, KANOKO-SAN.
SAKI-CHAN!
DON'T GET TAKEN IN BY HIS SWEET TALK!
YOU'RE AS BEAUTIFUL AND COLD AS EVER.
LIKE WINTER ITSELF.
THANKS.
I'M OFTEN TOLD THAT WINTER SUITS ME.
I don't need this!
I have Tae-san anyway!
Tae-san!

TAE-SAN...?!
FOR NOW, SHE'S NOT IN CRITICAL CONDITION.
BUT SHE'S STILL IN POOR HEALTH.
IT'S STILL CONCERNING, SO I WOULD LIKE TO ADMIT HER TO THE HOSPITAL FOR THE TIME BEING.

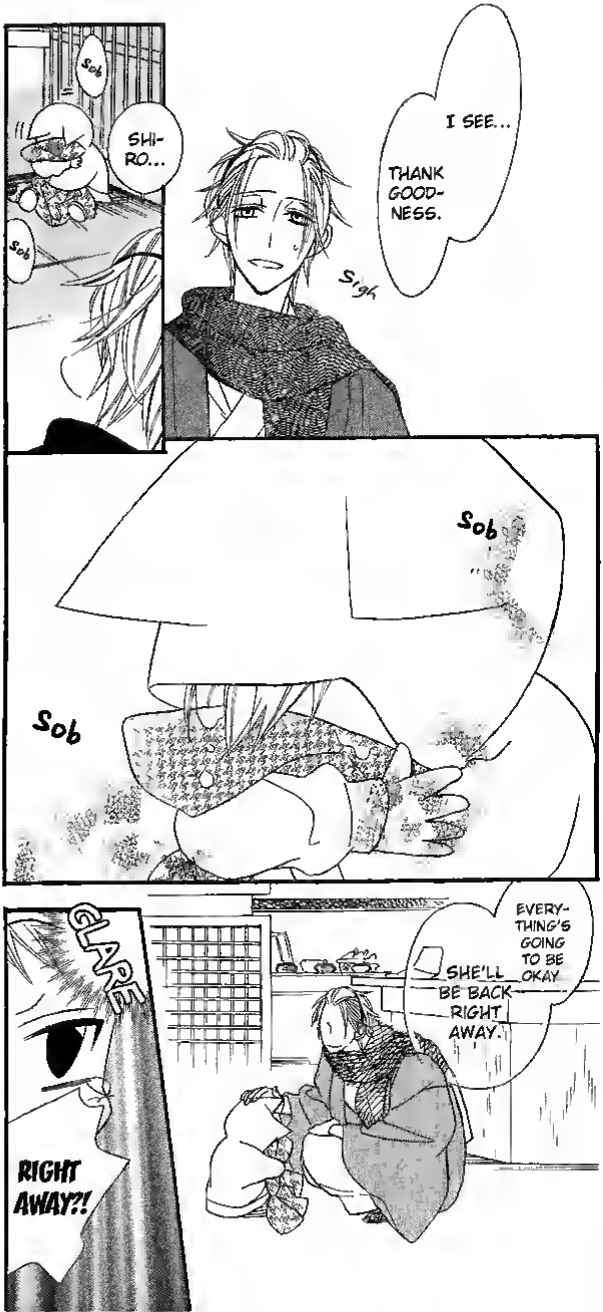
The Real Cat Town

The setting for this manga was actually based on a real town. People who know about it will definitely know what I'm talking about ♪

My home town is in Ishigaki Prefecture, which is nowhere near this town. When I was writing the first chapter, I didn't know anything about what it was really like.

I ended up using a lot of local newspapers as reference.

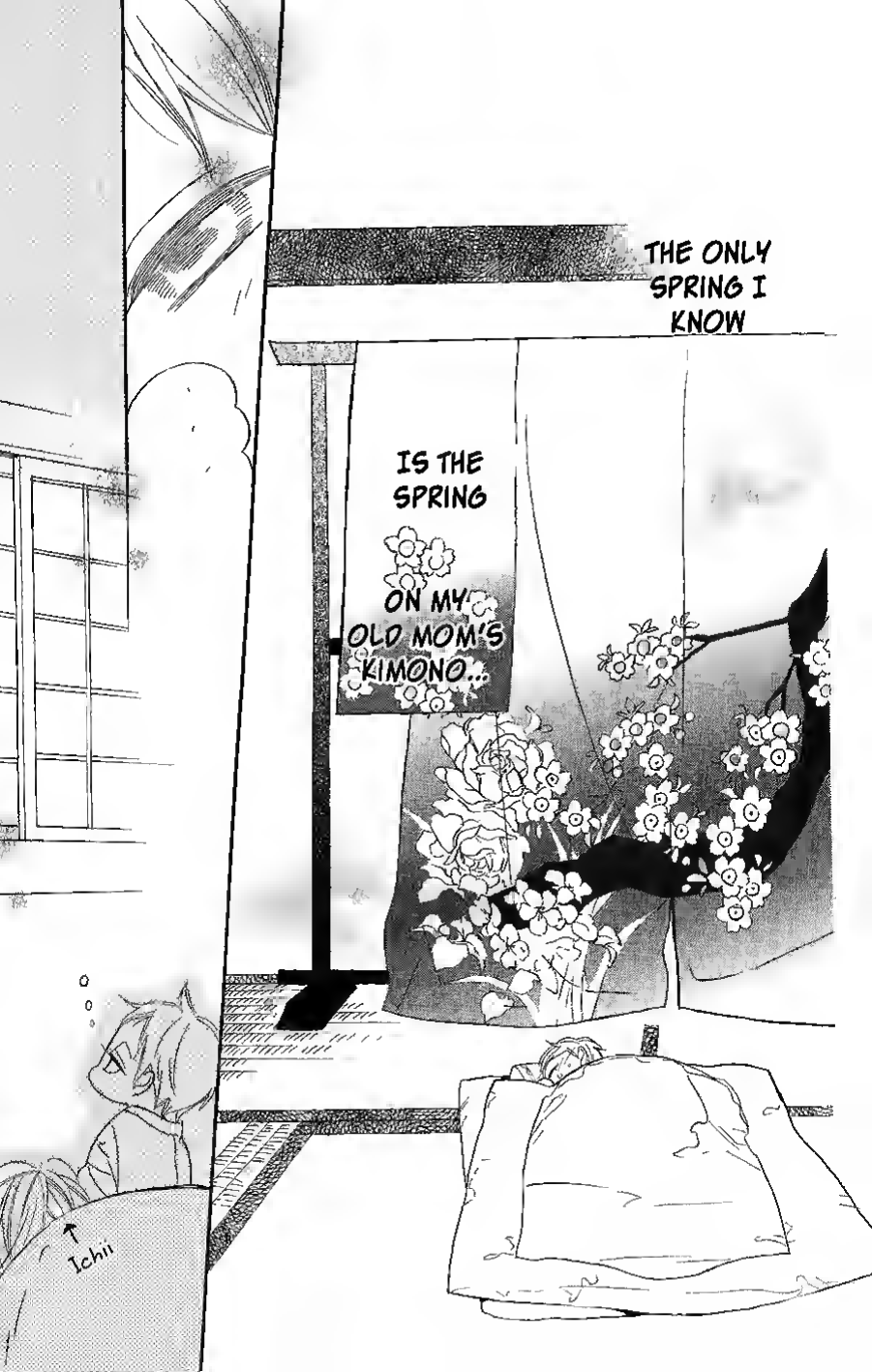
Thank you!



HOW SOON IS "RIGHT AWAY"?
YOU CAN'T JUST MAKE A PROMISE WITHOUT AN ACTUAL DATE, ICHII!
ICHII, MOM'S MAD AT YOU!
YOU'RE TOO NICE TO WOMEN AND TOO STUPID ABOUT EVERYTHING ELSE!
Uh...
NO, NO, I'M TELLING THE TRUTH!
ALL RIGHT?
SHE'LL BE HOME BY SPRING, OKAY?
SPRING?
SPRING IS COMING?
SPRING IS COMING HERE?
ARE THERE GONNA BE CHERRY BLOSSOMS?

SPRING...
SPRING IS COMING TO OUR TOWN...
shake
OH, THAT'S RIGHT, YOU HAD A COLD LAST YEAR...
SERIOUSLY, SHIRO, YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT SPRING?
YOU DON'T REMEMBER IT FROM LAST YEAR?
IS IT HERE YET?
IS SPRING HERE YET?
IT'S STILL A LITTLE EARLY.
STILL NO?
Another day
IT WOULD SEEM SO.
The same day
Fidget
I WONDER IF IT'LL COME TOMORROW.
Fidget
MAYBE...
Your hair is starting to fall out.

I KNOW ABOUT SPRING, Y'KNOW.
I KNOW THAT IT'S WONDER-FUL.
PEOPLE SAY THAT THE TOWN WILL BE FILLED WITH PINK CHERRY BLOSSOMS.
AND THAT'S WHEN MOM'S GONNA COME BACK.
DID SPRING COME LAST YEAR, TOO?
THEY SAY EVERY-THING'S GONNA TURN PINK,
BUT HOW?
I CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT IT.
FIDGET
FIDGET
WILL IT BE LIKE HOW SNOW MAKES THE TOWN WHITE?
THAT'S RIGHT.
SPRING IS FILLED WITH WONDERFUL ENCOUN-TERS.
I'M LOOKING THROUGH THE WINDOW FROM MY FUTON
WHILE WHITE SNOW FALLS OUTSIDE.
HOHO!
.....
WHAT KIND OF EN-COUNTERS ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?


THE ONLY SPRING I KNOW
IS THE SPRING
ON MY OLD MOM'S KIMONO...
Ichii

WINTER IS BACK!!!
It's cold
Murmur
I HAVEN'T SEEN IT IN A LONG TIME...
NOT SINCE I USED TO CHASE HER.
MY OLD MOM, THAT IS...
Ah!
THIS IS...!
OPEN

I'M GOING TO GO LOOK FOR SPRING
AND HAUL IT BACK HERE!!!
GET MY SNOW BOOTS OUT!
ICHI!! ICHI!!
EHHH?
NYAO-SU
Meow
THAT'S WHY
HE LOST TO THE WINTER
ICHI'S USELESS
Tabiko-san
TABIKO-SAN, WE'RE GOING!
Meow!
WANNA COME WITH ME?
YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT SPRING, EITHER...
OH, NYAO-SU,
Meow~
Meow~

Not here either
Hmmm
Snack time
MEO-YEP!
YOU'RE LOOKING FOR SPRING, SHIRO-CHAN?
OH?

YOU'RE INCRE-DIBLE, SHIRO-CHAN!
I'D BE GLAD IF SPRING CAME EARLY.
I CAN'T STAND THE COLD.
WINTER IS SO ROUGH!
Leave it to me! I'll find spring for you!
Speedy
YEAH!!!
REALLY, LADIES,
THE WIN-TER IS LOVELY AS IT IS.
KANO-SAN,
DO YOU HATE SPRING?
DASH
NO
I DON'T HATE IT.
IT'S JUST THAT
SPRING REALLY DOESN'T SUIT ME.
SPRING COLORS DON'T LOOK GOOD ON ME, EITHER.
CHOOSING A KIMONO EVERY DAY IS SUCH A CHORE.

THE PERSON WHO TOLD ME THAT SPRING SUITS ME THE MOST
ISN'T EVEN HERE ANYMORE...
KANO-SAN SEEMS KIND OF LONELY...
THEN I'LL SAY IT!
WHEN SPRING COMES,
IT'LL SUIT YOU BECAUSE YOU'RE NICE!
THAT'S WHAT I'LL SAY!

Memories
(and other things)

- I think I've finally gotten the hang of using a nib-pen.

- Compared to five years ago, I've really started liking kids and animals.

- Five years ago, I was at a turning point in my life. I was writing manga while looking for a job. I never would have thought in a million years that my manga would be published like this!

Oh, that's right!? Even though they're stray cats, I wanted them to be from different regions and breeds. (For instance, Tabiko is a tabby cat.)

If you want to send a letter, please send it here:

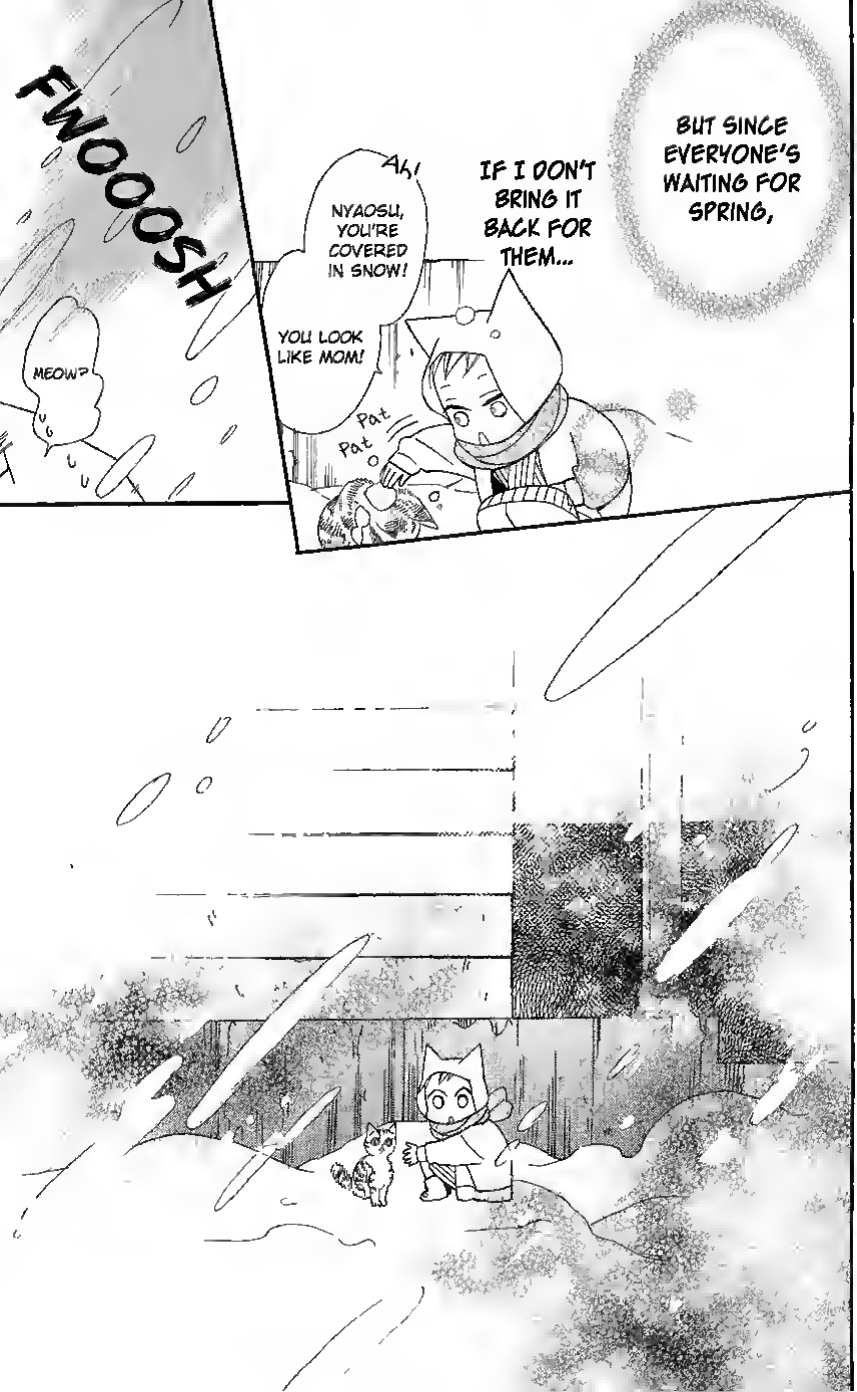
101-0063

東京都千代田区神田
淡路町 2-2-2
白泉社 花とゆめ編集部

モリエ サトシ まで

I'm super happy! Now then...

ICHII SAYS THAT
SPRING WILL COME
EVEN IN THIS WINTERY TOWN.
I WONDER IF IT'S TRUE.
I CAN'T HELP BUT THINK
THAT HE'S LYING.
Eh?
NO way!


FWOOOSH
MEOW?
AH,
NYAOSU, YOU'RE COVERED IN SNOW!
YOU LOOK LIKE MOM!
Pat Pat
IF I DON'T BRING IT BACK FOR THEM...
BUT SINCE EVERYONE'S WAITING FOR SPRING,

Rattle
Rattle
I CAN'T BELIEVE THERE'S A BLIZZARD EVEN THOUGH IT'S ALREADY MARCH...
Bang!
DAD!
NO.
EVERYONE IS LOOKING FOR HIM
DID YOU FIND SHIRO?
I'M GOING BACK OUT.
ICHII, YOU MORON! WEAR A COAT FOR GOD'S SAKE!
WE SHOULD GO, TOO.
WHOOSH

NYAO-
NYAO-SU!
WHOOSH
Meow!
Meow!
NYAO-SU!
I CAN'T SEE IN FRONT OF ME IN THIS SNOW.
I'M SO COLD.
WHAT SHOULD WE DO, NYAOSU!?
I DON'T KNOW WHETHER I'M COMING OR GOING.
HELP ME.
I'M SCARED...
MO...

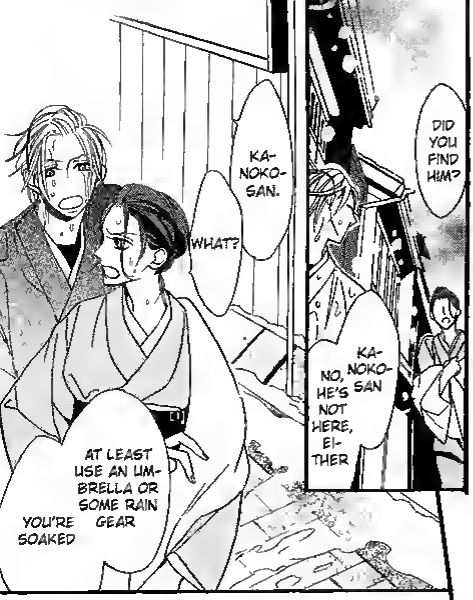
MO...
Meow.
MOM!
ICHI!!
MOM!
Meow!
MOM!
Meow!
Meow!
Meow!
MOM!

MO...
Meoooow!

TABIKO-SAN...
Turns
PICKS UP
EXCUSE ME!
OH! YES.
HAAH.
WHOA!

HAAH.
WHOOSH
I DON'T WANT TO LOSE SIGHT OF HER BACK...

I'M RUNNING
DON'T LEAVE ME.
TO KEEP UP, BUT...



COME QUICK,

SPRING.

GIVE ME BACK MY MOM.

SHIRO!
ICHI...
Meow!
Wash!
SHIRO?
!
Meow!
Meow!
IT WAS SCARY, HUH?
THERE, THERE.
I-
I'M WRONG?
YOU'RE WRONG!

I-
I COULD NOT FIND SPRING.
MOM WON'T COME BACK...
SHI-RO,
WHERE DID YOU GO?
IT'S SPRING!

THESE FLOWERS
ARE CHERRY BLOSSOMS.
THIS IS SPRING?
IT'S SO SMALL.
!
IT'S SHIRO.
HE BROUGHT BACK SPRING!
SEE?

SHE DIDN'T WANT TO EAT AT THE HOSPITAL.
SO I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE BETTER TO JUST BRING HER HOME.
It was better
"I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU."
"I WANTED TO SEE YOU."
"I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE BACK!"

WOW!
WITHOUT FURTHER ADO, A GRAND SPRING CAME UPON THE TOWN.
WE'LL ALWAYS BE TOGETHER.
AND THUS,

Meow!

Meow!
Meow!
Meow!
It's Nyaosu's little brother
Meow!
Meow!
NYAO-SU.
...IT'S OKAY.

NO MATTER WHERE I RUN TO,
LET'S BRING SPRING TO EVERY-BODY!
I SEE PEOPLE WAITING FOR ME.
TADA
KANO-SAN!
IT'S SPRING!
KANO-SAN, SPRING REALLY DOES SUIT YOU!
IT'S WONDER-FUL!
SO, YOU'RE NOT LONELY ANYMORE, RIGHT?

OH MY.
HOW ADORABLE.
THANK YOU.
I RAN AND RAN, WANTING TO SEE HER.

I'M NOT LONELY.
CHAPTER 4 / END